News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 4 October 2022
To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 46 #1

GSWC Meetings are usually held at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May (unless a holiday interferes). Currently we are meeting via Zoom for the health and safety of our members. Please register ahead of time to assist with tracking attendance. Watch for your invitation to register one week before the event. Check our website for information about registering or changes in venue: https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org or our Facebook page located at: https://www.facebook.com/genealogywashtenaw.

Upcoming Meetings:
Sunday, October 23, 2022: "Organize Like an Archivist: Taming Genealogy Records and Research" presented by Nancy Loe.
Class: "Michigan: An Upper Midwest Researcher's Dream" presented by Paula Stuart Warren.

Sunday, December 4, 2022: "DNA—No Tree! No Response! Need More!" presented by Suz Bates.
Class: "Recipes and Reminiscing" taught by Nancy Howard and Janet Tarolli.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&
Report on Recent Meetings:

September 25, 2022: "Migration Trails Across America" presented by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG, FOGS.

Peggy Lauritzen's excellent presentation covered the many modes of transport that pioneers used to travel to the frontiers of the U.S. from the east coast. In researching your family's travels, it is important to compare their arrival date with a timeline of possible routes.

There were several reasons for traveling. Land was the most important; following earlier pioneer relatives, oppression/persecution, epidemics, and freedom of worship were also important factors.

Peggy's presentation concentrated on the Northwest Territories. Due to the way this territory was set up by Thomas Jefferson, no slavery was allowed. This made the Ohio River the dividing line between slave and free states. The Appalachian Mountains were a formidable barrier to travel for early pioneers. Eventually, trails were cut westward through the mountains. Later, turnpikes and plank roads were built in some areas. River travel and canals were also important, including the Erie Canal for many pioneers coming to Michigan. Canals, linking to existing waterways, were the best way to carry crops to eastern markets. Many people also made their living supporting canals and turnpikes as haulers or toll keepers.

The FamilySearch Wiki is a useful reference and has several maps of trails, roads, and canals. David McCullough's book "*The Pioneers*" also gives a detailed description of a pioneer journey.

Reported by Tim Salatin

Class: "Ten Essentials for New York Research" presented by Jane Wilcox.
She defined three time periods in New York: the Dutch Colonial/New Netherland of 1624–1666; British Colonial/New York which was 1664–1783 Treaty of Paris; and Statehood for New York beginning in 1777.

Her ten essential categories were:

1. Governmental jurisdictions indicate how the political divisions were set up, from hamlets, incorporated or unincorporated villages, towns and cities; then county; and of course, the whole state. She gave several examples of how boundaries changed. Boundary and name changes may complicate your search.
2. Governmental vital records, including births, marriages, and deaths, can be accessed through indexes and various archives. Remember, not all records have been digitized.
3. Probate records (although many early Dutch records were damaged in a state capital fire) may be located through court records, some under the heading of Surrogate Courts after 1847. Guardianship is another category to look for.
4. Land records are found mostly at the county level, but there are some military

land grants. Look for manorial grants, or entities such as the Holland Land Company, which used "Articles of Agreement", not mortgages.

5. New York State Censuses are available from 1825 to 1925. Some are more detailed than others.
6. Online resources are available including Ancestry, FamilySearch, New York Heritage and the Old Fulton Postcards sites.
7. Offline resources include the New York State Archives book she is writing.
8. New York State Archives and Library in Albany contain items such as military abstract of WWI records, and DAR Bible records. Also look for diaries and finding aides.
9. *New York Family Research Guide and Gazetteer* covers the essentials including land, probate, ethnic groups and maps.
10. And the most essential element: You! Applying what you learned!

Look for her handout under "Members Only Downloads" once you sign in at https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org. You can learn more about Jane Wilcox at her website Forget-Me-Not Ancestry.

Reported by Marcia McCrary

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

GSWC Items:

Notes from the Board:

The next **GSWC Board Meeting** is Tuesday, October 11, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m., via Zoom. For more information on the agenda and how to attend, send an email to Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org.

From President Nancy Howard:

Library Update

Our library collection was successfully moved from the Family History Center in Saline to a temporary storage facility in Ann Arbor. The facility is not open to the public, but our Research Committee has access, so you can contact them if you need help with Washtenaw County research: research@washtenawgenealogy.org.

We Need Your Help!

Family History Capers—Members are invited to share research stories that may be published in an upcoming edition of our quarterly '*Capers*. Contact info@washtenawgenealogy.org

Volunteer Positions—An organization of our size, with terrific member and community services, should not have this many openings! PLEASE contact Nancy Howard at president@washtenawgenealogy.org if you can spare some time and serve in one of the following roles:

Librarian
Program Coordinator
Back-up Recording Secretary
News-Pages Editor
Publicity Coordinator
Web Committee

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

GSWC SIG Meetings:

The **DNA Special Interest Group** will meet on Thursday, October 20, 2022 on Zoom at 2 p.m. Contact Rodger Wolf, rawolf@umich.edu.

The **German Special Interest Group** will meet on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. on Zoom at 2pm. Contact GermanSIG@comcast.net. Mike Gerding, for more information.

We have a new SIG forming: the **Ireland and UK Special Interest Group** is looking for members with roots tracing back to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Contact Bill O'Reilly at:
IrelandUKSIG@washtenawgenealogy.org
if you're interested in joining this group.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

News-Pages Editors:	
Marcia McCrary	marciamccr@aol.com
Nancy Howard	gswcpresident@gmail.com
Tim Salatin	dtsal@yahoo.com